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HB 270 RELATING TO SOLAR ACCESS AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM UTILIZATION

Statement for
House Committees on
Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection
Consumer Protection and Commerce
Public Hearing - 20 February 1981

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HB 270 would authorize county governments to adopt ordinances and rules which encourage the use of solar energy systems and remove certain restrictions which may have been imposed that would hinder or prohibit solar energy systems. The Environmental Center statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

In the development of solar energy utilization planning, recognition should be given to the need for "negative passive solar energy systems." That is, the recognition of "shade elements," either by architectural design, i.e., greater roof overhangs, alignment for maximum trade wind ventilation; or by appropriate landscaping, i.e., primarily trees. We realize that a conflict may exist between the need for solar access for solar energy developments and the need for efficient passive energy systems for cooling in our tropical climate. We suggest that HB 270 be amended to include recognition of the needs for negative passive solar energy systems.

The definition of "cost-effective" (page 3, line 22) of HB 270 should be clarified. We suggest the following addition to this sentence (page 3, line 22) "if shown to be cost-effective based on life cycle analyses."

HB 270 would require the counties to include in their general development plans a solar energy use component. The direction afforded by HB 270 would thereby be substantially greater than that provided by HB 269. The inclusion of the provision to prohibit "solar energy system use restrictions" further strengthens the intent and purpose of this bill.